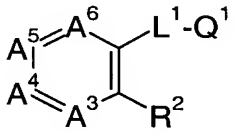
**c.) Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula I



I

(or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) wherein:

$A^3$, $A^4$, $A^5$ and $A^6$, together with the two carbons to which they are attached, complete a substituted benzene in which $A^3$ is $CR^3$, $A^4$ is $CR^4$, $A^5$ is $CR^5$, and $A^6$ is $CR^6$; wherein

$R^3$ is hydrogen, methyl, methoxy, fluoro, chloro or carboxy;

one of $R^4$ and $R^5$ is hydrogen, (1-4C)alkyl, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, $R^fO$-, $R^fO_2CCH_2O$-, $HO(CH_2)_aO$- (in which a is 2, 3 or 4), $R^fO_2C$-, $R^fO_2CCH_2$-, $R^gNH$-, $R^hSO_2$-, hydroxymethyl, formyl, cyano, acetyl, 1-hydroxyethyl, 1-(hydroxyimino)ethyl, 1-(methoxyimino)-ethyl, methylthio or $R^fO_2C(CH_2)_2$-;

the other of $R^4$ and $R^5$ is hydrogen; and

$R^6$ is hydrogen, methyl, fluoro, chloro or methoxy;

in which $R^f$ is hydrogen, (1-4C)alkyl or benzyl; $R^g$ is hydrogen or $R^hSO_2$-; and $R^h$ is (1-4C)alkyl or dimethylamino;

or each of $R^3$, $R^4$ and $R^6$ is hydrogen; and $R^5$ is vinyl, 2-cyanovinyl, 2-({(1-2C)alkoxy}carbonyl)vinyl or $R^a$ in which $R^a$ is phenyl (which is unsubstituted or bears one or more substituents independently selected from halo, methyl, methoxy and hydroxy) or heteroaryl (which heteroaryl is a 5-membered aromatic ring which has ~~includes~~ one to four heteroatoms selected from sulfur, oxygen and nitrogen or is a 6-membered aromatic ring which has ~~includes~~ one to three nitrogen atoms, wherein the heteroaryl is attached at carbon

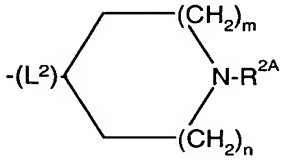
and may bear one or more methyl substituents on carbon or nitrogen);

$L^1$ is -CO-NH- such that $-L^1-Q^1$ is $-CO-NH-Q^1$;

$Q^1$ is ~~2-pyridinyl (which bears a methyl, methoxy, methylthio, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 5 position), 3-pyridinyl (which bears a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 6 position), 2-pyrimidinyl (which may bear a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 5 position) or~~ 3-pyridazinyl (which may bear a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 6-position);

$R^2$ is $-L^2-Q^2$ in which $-L^2-$ is -NH-CO-, -NH-CO-X-, -NH-CO-O-X-, -NH-CO-NH-X-, $-NH-CH_2-$, $-NH-C(CH_3)H-$, $-N(CH_3)-CH_2-$ or $-O-CH_2-$; and $Q^2$ is $Q^{2A}$, $Q^{2B}$, $Q^{2C}$, $Q^{2D}$, $Q^{2E}$ or $Q^{2F}$ ~~$Q^{2E}$~~ wherein X is a single bond or methylene and the values of $L^2$ and $Q^2$ are together selected from $-NH-CO-X-Q^{2A}$, $-NH-CO-O-X-Q^{2A}$, $-NH-CO-NH-X-Q^{2A}$, $-NH-CH_2-Q^{2A}$, $-NH-C(CH_3)H-Q^{2A}$, $-N(CH_3)-CH_2-Q^{2A}$, $-O-CH_2-Q^{2A}$, $-NH-CO-X-Q^{2B}$, $-NH-CO-Q^{2C}$, $-NH-CO-Q^{2D}$, $-NH-CO-Q^{2E}$ and $-NH-CO-Q^{2F}$ in which:

$Q^{2A}$ (showing the $L^2$ to which it is attached) is



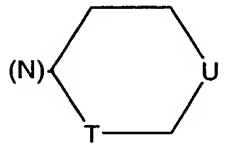

in which

each of m and n independently is 0 or 1, or m is 2 and n is 1, and

$R^{2A}$ is hydrogen, t-butyl, methylsulfonyl, $-CHR^YR^Z$, $-CHR^WR^X$, or 4-pyridinyl (which is unsubstituted or bears a substituent $R^V$ at the 2- or 3-position) wherein

$R^V$ is methyl, hydroxymethyl, {(1-2C)alkoxy}carbonyl; cyano, carbamoyl, thiocarbamoyl, or N-hydroxyamidino;

each of $R^W$ and $R^X$ independently is hydrogen or (1-3C)normal alkyl; or $-CHR^WR^X$ is 2-indanyl or (showing the nitrogen to which it is attached) is




in which T is a single bond or methylene and U is methylene, ethylene, oxy, $-S(O)_q-$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2) or imino (which may bear a methyl substituent), or T is ethan-1,1-diyl and U is a single bond or methylene;

$R^Y$ is hydrogen or methyl; and

$R^Z$ is isopropyl, t-butyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl, phenyl (which is unsubstituted or bears one or more substituents independently selected from halo, methyl, methoxy and hydroxy), 4-quinolinyl or heteroaryl (which heteroaryl is a 5-membered aromatic ring which has ~~includes~~ one to four heteroatoms selected from sulfur, oxygen and nitrogen or is a 6-membered aromatic ring which has ~~includes~~ one to three nitrogen atoms, wherein the heteroaryl is attached at carbon and may bear one or more methyl substituents on carbon or nitrogen);

or $R^{2A}$ is $-L^b-CH_2-R^b$ in which $-L^b-$ is a direct bond, $-CH_2-$, $-C(CH_3)H-$ or $-CH_2-CH_2-$; and $R^b$ is carboxy, {(1-2C)alkoxy}carbonyl, cyano, carbamoyl or trifluoromethyl;

or $R^{2A}$ is $-CO-R^C$ in which $R^C$ is hydrogen, (1-3C)alkyl, {(1-2C)alkoxy}carbonyl-$(CH_2)_c-$ (in which c is 1 or 2), phenyl (which is unsubstituted or bears one or more substituents independently selected from halo, methyl, methoxy and hydroxy), heteroaryl (which heteroaryl is a 5-membered aromatic ring which has ~~includes~~ one to four heteroatoms selected from sulfur, oxygen and nitrogen or is

a 6-membered aromatic ring which has ~~includes~~ one to three nitrogen atoms, wherein the heteroaryl is attached at carbon and may bear one or more methyl substituents on carbon or nitrogen) or $-NR^dR^e$ in which each of $R^d$ and $R^e$ is independently hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, or $-NR^dR^e$ is pyrrolidino, piperidino, morpholino or thiomorpholino;

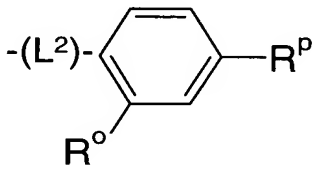
$Q^{2B}$ is 1-piperazinyl which bears at the 4-position the group $R^{2A}$ (defined as above);

$Q^{2C}$ is 3,4-didehydropiperidin-4-yl which bears at the 1-position the group $R^{2A}$ (defined as above);

$Q^{2D}$ is cyclohexyl which bears at the 4-position the group $-NR^sR^t$ in which each of $R^s$ and $R^t$ independently is hydrogen or methyl or $R^s$ and $R^t$ together are trimethylene or tetramethylene;

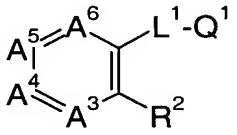
$Q^{2E}$ is 1-piperidinyl which bears at the 4-position the group $-NR^sR^t$ (defined as above); and

$Q^{2F}$ (showing the $L^2$ to which it is attached) is




in which $R^o$ is hydrogen, halo, (1-6C)alkyl, hydroxy, (1-4C)alkoxy, benzyloxy or (1-4C)alkylthio; and $R^p$ is acetylamino, 1-hydroxyethyl, 1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl, 1-methoxy-1-methylethyl, 4-piperidinyl, 4-pyridinyl, dimethylaminosulfonyl or $-J-R^q$ in which J is a single bond, methylene, carbonyl, oxy, $-S(O)_q-$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2), or $-NR^r-$ (wherein $R^r$ is hydrogen or methyl); and $R^q$ is (1-6C)alkyl, phenyl, 3-pyridyl or 4-pyridyl; or $-NR^qR^r$ is pyrrolidino.

2. (Currently amended) The compound of formula I as claimed in Claim 1



I

(or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) wherein:

$A^3$, $A^4$, $A^5$ and $A^6$, together with the two carbons to which they are attached, complete a substituted benzene in which $A^3$ is $CR^3$, $A^4$ is $CR^4$, $A^5$ is $CR^5$, and $A^6$ is $CR^6$;

wherein

$R^3$ is hydrogen, methyl, fluoro, chloro or carboxy;

one of $R^4$ and $R^5$ is hydrogen, (1-4C)alkyl, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, $R^fO-$, $R^fO_2CCH_2O-$, $HO(CH_2)_aO-$ (in which a is 2, 3 or 4), $R^fO_2C-$, $R^fO_2CCH_2-$, $R^gNH-$ or $R^hSO_2-$;

the other of $R^4$ and $R^5$ is hydrogen; and

$R^6$ is hydrogen, methyl, fluoro, chloro or methoxy;

in which $R^f$ is hydrogen, (1-4C)alkyl or benzyl; $R^g$ is hydrogen or $R^hSO_2-$; and $R^h$ is (1-4C)alkyl or dimethylamino;

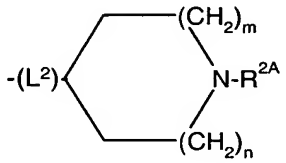
$L^1$ is -CO-NH- such that $-L^1-Q^1$ is $-CO-NH-Q^1$;

$Q^1$ is ~~2-pyridinyl (which bears a methyl, methoxy, methylthio, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 5-position), 3-pyridinyl (which bears a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 6-position), 2-pyrimidinyl (which may bear a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 5-position) or~~ 3-pyridazinyl (which may bear a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 6-position);

$R^2$ is $-L^2-Q^2$ in which $-L^2-$ is -NH-CO-, -NH-CO-X-, -NH-CO-O-X-, -NH-CO-NH-X-, $-NH-CH_2-$ or $-O-CH_2-$; and $Q^2$ is $Q^{2A}$, $Q^{2B}$, $Q^{2C}$, $Q^{2D}$, $Q^{2E}$ or $Q^{2F}$ wherein X is a single bond or methylene and the values of $L^2$ and $Q^2$ are together selected from $-NH-CO-X-Q^{2A}$, $-NH-CO-O-X-Q^{2A}$, $-NH-CO-NH-X-Q^{2A}$,

$-NH-CH_2-Q^{2A}$, $-O-CH_2-Q^{2A}$, $-NH-CO-X-Q^{2B}$, $-NH-CO-Q^{2C}$, $-NH-CO-Q^{2D}$, $-NH-CO-Q^{2E}$ and $-NH-CO-Q^{2F}$ in which:

$Q^{2A}$ (showing the $L^2$ to which it is attached) is



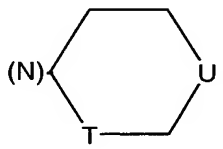

in which

each of m and n independently is 0 or 1, and

$R^{2A}$ is hydrogen, t-butyl, methylsulfonyl, $-CHR^YR^Z$, $-CHR^WR^X$, or 4-pyridinyl (which is unsubstituted or bears a substituent $R^V$ at the 2- or 3-position) wherein

$R^V$ is methyl, hydroxymethyl, {(1-2C)alkoxy}carbonyl; cyano, carbamoyl, thiocarbamoyl, or N-hydroxyamidino;

each of $R^W$ and $R^X$ independently is hydrogen or (1-3C)normal alkyl; or $-CHR^WR^X$ is 2-indanyl or (showing the nitrogen to which it is attached) is




in which T is a single bond or methylene and U is methylene, ethylene, oxy, $-S(O)_q-$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2) or imino (which may bear a methyl substituent), or T is ethan-1,1-diyl and U is a single bond or methylene;

$R^Y$ is hydrogen or methyl; and

$R^Z$ is isopropyl, t-butyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl, phenyl (which is unsubstituted or bears one or more substituents independently selected from halo, methyl, methoxy and hydroxy), 4-quinolinyl or heteroaryl (which heteroaryl is a

5-membered aromatic ring which has ~~includes~~ one to four heteroatoms selected from sulfur, oxygen and nitrogen or is a 6-membered aromatic ring which has ~~includes~~ one to three nitrogen atoms, wherein the heteroaryl is attached at carbon and may bear one or more methyl substituents on carbon or nitrogen);

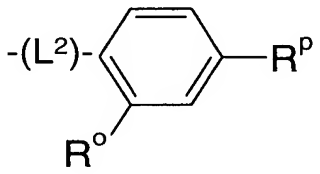
$Q^{2B}$ is 1-piperazinyl which bears at the 4-position the group $R^{2A}$ (defined as above);

$Q^{2C}$ is 3,4-didehydropiperidin-4-yl which bears at the 1-position the group $R^{2A}$ (defined as above);

$Q^{2D}$ is cyclohexyl which bears at the 4-position the group $-NR^sR^t$ in which each of $R^s$ and $R^t$ independently is hydrogen or methyl or $R^s$ and $R^t$ together are trimethylene or tetramethylene;

$Q^{2E}$ is 1-piperidinyl which bears at the 4-position the group $-NR^sR^t$ (defined as above); and

$Q^{2F}$ (showing the $L^2$ to which it is attached) is




in which $R^o$ is hydrogen, halo, (1-6C)alkyl, hydroxy, (1-4C)alkoxy, benzyloxy or (1-4C)alkylthio; and $R^p$ is acetylamino, 1-hydroxyethyl, 1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl, 1-methoxy-1-methylethyl, 4-piperidinyl, 4-pyridinyl, dimethylaminosulfonyl or $-J-R^q$ in which J is a single bond, methylene, carbonyl, oxy, $-S(O)_q-$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2), or $-NR^r-$ (wherein $R^r$ is hydrogen or methyl); and $R^q$ is (1-6C)alkyl, phenyl, 3-pyridyl or 4-pyridyl.

3. (Currently amended) A compound of formula I (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) as claimed in Claim 2 wherein:

$A^3$, $A^4$, $A^5$ and $A^6$, together with the two carbons to which they are attached, complete a substituted benzene in which $A^3$ is $CR^3$, $A^4$ is $CR^4$, $A^5$ is $CR^5$, and $A^6$ is $CR^6$; wherein

$R^3$ is hydrogen;

one of $R^4$ and $R^5$ is hydrogen, methyl, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, $R^fO_2C$- or $R^gNH$-;

the other of $R^4$ and $R^5$ is hydrogen; and

$R^6$ is hydrogen;

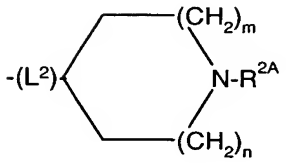
in which $R^f$ is hydrogen, (1-4C)alkyl or benzyl; $R^g$ is hydrogen or $R^hSO_2$-; and $R^h$ is (1-4C)alkyl or dimethylamino;

$L^1$ is -CO-NH- such that $-L^1-Q^1$ is -CO-NH-$Q^1$;

$Q^1$ is ~~2-pyridinyl (which bears a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 5 position), 3-pyridinyl (which bears a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 6 position), 2-pyrimidinyl (which may bear a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 5 position) or~~ 3-pyridazinyl (which may bear a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 6-position);

$R^2$ is $-L^2-Q^2$ in which $-L^2-$ is -NH-CO-, -NH-CO-X-, -NH-CO-O-X-, -NH-CO-NH-X-, -NH-$CH_2$- or -O-$CH_2$-; and $Q^2$ is $Q^{2A}$, $Q^{2B}$, $Q^{2C}$, $Q^{2D}$, $Q^{2E}$ or $Q^{2F}$ wherein X is a single bond or methylene and the values of $L^2$ and $Q^2$ are together selected from -NH-CO-X-$Q^{2A}$, -NH-CO-O-X-$Q^{2A}$, -NH-CO-NH-X-$Q^{2A}$, -NH-$CH_2$-$Q^{2A}$, -O-$CH_2$-$Q^{2A}$, -NH-CO-X-$Q^{2B}$, -NH-CO-$Q^{2C}$, -NH-CO-$Q^{2D}$, -NH-CO-$Q^{2E}$ and -NH-CO-$Q^{2F}$ in which:

$Q^{2A}$ (showing the $L^2$ to which it is attached) is



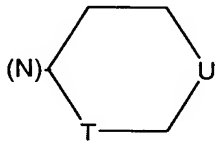

in which

each of m and n independently is 0 or 1, and

$R^{2A}$ is hydrogen, $-CHR^YR^Z$, $-CHR^WR^X$, or 4-pyridinyl (which is unsubstituted or bears a substituent $R^V$ at the 2- or 3-position) wherein

$R^V$ is methyl, hydroxymethyl, {(1-2C)alkoxy}carbonyl; cyano, carbamoyl, thiocarbamoyl, or N-hydroxyamidino;

each of $R^W$ and $R^X$ independently is hydrogen or (1-3C)normal alkyl; or $-CHR^WR^X$ is 2-indanyl or (showing the nitrogen to which it is attached) is




in which T is a single bond or methylene and U is methylene, oxy, thioxy or imino (which may bear a methyl substituent), or T is ethan-1,1-diyl and U is a single bond or methylene;

$R^Y$ is hydrogen or methyl; and

$R^Z$ is isopropyl, t-butyl, (3-6C)cyclopropyl, phenyl (which is unsubstituted or bears one or more substituents independently selected from halo, methyl, methoxy and hydroxy), 4-quinolinyl or heteroaryl (which heteroaryl is a 5-membered aromatic ring which has ~~includes~~ one to four heteroatoms selected from sulfur, oxygen and nitrogen or is a 6-membered aromatic ring which has ~~includes~~ one to three

nitrogen atoms, wherein the heteroaryl is attached at carbon and may bear one or more methyl substituents on carbon or nitrogen);

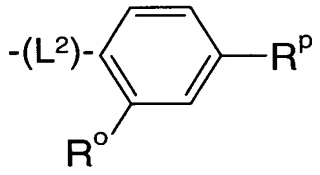
$Q^{2B}$ is 1-piperazinyl which bears at the 4-position the group $R^{2A}$ (defined as above);

$Q^{2C}$ is 3,4-didehydropiperidin-4-yl which bears at the 1-position the group $R^{2A}$ (defined as above);

$Q^{2D}$ is cyclohexyl which bears at the 4-position the group $-NR^sR^t$ in which each of $R^s$ and $R^t$ independently is hydrogen or methyl or $R^s$ and $R^t$ together are trimethylene or tetramethylene;

$Q^{2E}$ is 1-piperidinyl which bears at the 4-position the group $-NR^sR^t$ (defined as above); and

$Q^{2F}$ (showing the $L^2$ to which it is attached) is




in which $R^o$ is hydrogen and $R^p$ is acetylamino, 1-hydroxyethyl, 1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl, 1-methoxy-1-methylethyl, 4-piperidinyl, 4-pyridinyl, dimethylaminosulfonyl or $-J-R^q$ in which J is a single bond, methylene, carbonyl, oxy, $-S(O)_q-$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2), or $-NR^r-$ (wherein $R^r$ is hydrogen or methyl); and $R^q$ is (1-6C)alkyl, phenyl, 3-pyridyl or 4-pyridyl.

4. (Original) The compound of Claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein halo is fluoro, chloro, bromo or iodo; (1-2C)alkyl is methyl or ethyl; (1-3C)normal alkyl is methyl, ethyl or propyl; (1-4C)alkyl is methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, or t-butyl; (1-6C)alkyl is methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl or hexyl; (3-6C)cycloalkyl is cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopenytyl or cyclohexyl.

5. (Currently amended) The compound of Claim 4 ~~any of Claims 1-4~~ wherein $Q^1$ is ~~5-chloropyridin-2-yl, 5-fluoropyridin-2-yl, or~~ 6-chloropyridazin-3-yl.

6. (Currently amended) The compound of Claim 4 ~~any of Claims 1-5~~ wherein $R^2$ is (1-isopropylpiperidin-4-yl-carbonyl)amino, (1-cyclohexylpiperidin-4-ylcarbonyl)amino, (4-isopropylpiperazin-1-ylcarbonyl)amino, [1-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yl)piperidin-4-ylcarbonyl]amino, [4-(1-pyrroli-dinyl)piperidin-1-ylcarbonyl]amino,. [1-(4-pyridinyl)piper-idin-4-ylmethyl]amino, [1-(2-carboxypyridin-4-yl)piperidin-4-ylmethyl]amino, or [1-(2-methoxycarbonylpyridin-4-yl)-piperidin-4-ylmethyl]amino.

7. (Currently amended) The compound as claimed in Claim 4 ~~any of Claims 1-6~~ wherein each of $R^3$-$R^6$ is hydrogen.

8. (Currently amended) The compound as claimed in Claim 4 ~~any of Claims 1-6~~ wherein each of $R^3$, $R^4$ and $R^6$ is hydrogen and $R^5$ is chloro or fluoro.

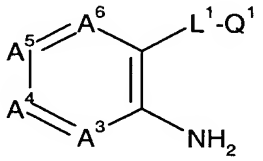
9. (Currently amended) The compound as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1, 4, 5 and 6~~ wherein each of $R^3$, $R^4$ and $R^6$ is hydrogen and $R^5$ is $R^a$ wherein $R^a$ is phenyl, furanyl, thienyl, 2-isothiazolyl or pyridyl; and wherein halo is fluoro, chloro, bromo or iodo; (1-2C)alkyl is methyl or ethyl; (1-3C)normal alkyl is methyl, ethyl or propyl; (1-4C)alkyl is methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, or t-butyl; (1-6C)alkyl is methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl or hexyl; (3-6C)cycloalkyl is cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopenytyl or cyclohexyl.

10. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound of formula I as claimed in any of Claims 1-3 ~~1-9~~ which is an acid-addition salt made from a basic compound of formula I and an acid which provides a pharmaceutically acceptable anion or a salt which is made from an acidic compound of formula I and a base which provides a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

11. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient, a novel compound of formula I (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) as provided in any of Claims 1-3 ~~1-10~~.

12. (Original) A process for preparing a compound of formula I (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) as provided in Claim 1 or 2 which is selected from

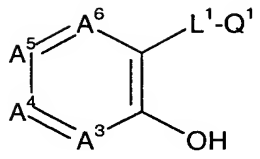
(A) for a compound of formula I in which $-L^2-Q^2$, is $-NH-CO-Q^2$, $-NH-CO-X-Q^2$, $-NH-CO-O-X-Q^2$ or $-NH-CO-NH-X-Q^2$, acylating an amine of formula II,




II

using a corresponding acid of formula $HO-CO-Q^2$, $HO-CO-X-Q^2$, $HO-CO-O-X-Q^2$, or $HO-CO-NH-X-Q^2$, or an activated derivative thereof;

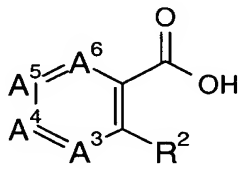
(B) for a compound of formula I in which $-L^2-Q^2$ is $-O-CH_2-Q^{2A}$, akylating a phenol of formula III




III

using a reagent of formula $Y\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Q^{2A}$ in which Y is a conventional leaving group;

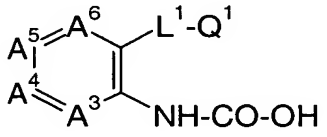
(C) acylating an amine of formula $H_2N\text{-}Q^1$, or a deprotonated derivative thereof, using an acid of formula IV, or an activated derivative thereof;




IV

(D) for a compound of formula I in which $R^2$ is $-NH\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Q^{2A}$, alkylating an amine of formula II directly, using a compound of formula $Y\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Q^{2A}$, or indirectly by reductive alkylation using an aldehyde of formula $Q^{2A}\text{-}CHO$;

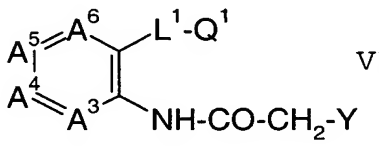
(E) for a compound of formula I in which $R^2$ is $-NH\text{-}CO\text{-}O\text{-}X\text{-}Q^{2A}$, or $-NH\text{-}CO\text{-}NH\text{-}X\text{-}Q^{2A}$, acylating an alcohol of formula $HO\text{-}X\text{-}Q^{2A}$ or an amine of formula $NH_2\text{-}X\text{-}Q^{2A}$, using an activated derivative of an acid of formula VI;




VI

(F) for a compound of formula I in which $R^2$ is $-NH\text{-}CO\text{-}X\text{-}Q^{2B}$ in which X is a single bond, acylating at the 1-position a piperazine of formula $H\text{-}Q^{2B}$, using an activated derivative of an acid of formula VI;

(G) for a compound of formula I in which $R^2$ is -NH-CO-X-$Q^{2B}$ in which X is methylene, alkylating at the 1-position a piperazine of formula H-$Q^{2B}$, using an alkylating agent of formula VII



VII

in which Y is a leaving group;

(H) for a compound of formula I in which $R^{2A}$ is methylsulfonyl, substituting the amino nitrogen of a corresponding compound of formula I in which $R^{2A}$ is hydrogen using an activated derivative of methanesulfonic acid;

(I) for a compound of formula I in which $R^{2A}$ is -$CHR^YR^Z$ or -$CHR^WR^X$, alkylating the amino nitrogen of a corresponding compound of formula I in which $R^{2A}$ is hydrogen using an alkylating agent of formula Y-$CHR^YR^Z$ or Y-$CHR^WR^X$ or reductively alkylating the amine using a compound of formula $R^Y$-CO-$R^Z$ or $R^W$-CO-$R^X$;

(J) for a compound of formula I in which $R^{2A}$ is 4-pyridinyl (which is unsubstituted or bears a substituent $R^V$ at the 2- or 3-position), substituting the amino nitrogen of a corresponding compound of formula I in which $R^{2A}$ is hydrogen using a corresponding pyridine reagent bearing a leaving group Y at the 4-position;

(K) for a compound of formula I in which $R^{2A}$ is 4-pyridinyl in which $R^V$ is alkoxycarbonyl, esterifying a corresponding compound of formula I in which $R^V$ is carboxy;

(L) for a compound of formula I in which $R^{2A}$ is 4-pyridinyl in which $R^V$ is hydroxymethyl, reducing the ester of a corresponding compound of formula I in which $R^V$ is alkoxycarbonyl;

(M) for a compound of formula I in which $R^{2A}$ is 4-pyridinyl in which $R^V$ is carbamoyl, amidating the ester of

a corresponding compound of formula I in which $R^V$ is alkoxycarbonyl;

(N) for a compound of formula I in which $R^{2A}$ is 4-pyridinyl in which $R^V$ is thiocarbamoyl, adding $H_2S$ to the nitrile of a corresponding compound of formula I in which $R^V$ is cyano;

(O) for a compound of formula I in which $R^{2A}$ is 4-pyridinyl in which $R^V$ is N-hydroxyamidino, adding $H_2NOH$ to the nitrile of a corresponding compound of formula I in which $R^V$ is cyano;

(P) for a compound of formula I in which $R^{2A}$ is 4-pyridinyl in which $R^V$ is carboxy, decomposing the ester of a corresponding compound of formula I in which $R^V$ is alkoxycarbonyl;

(Q) for a compound of formula I in which $-NR^sR^t$ is other than amino, alkylating a corresponding compound of formula I in which $-NR^sR^t$ is amino using a conventional method;

(R) for a compound of formula I which bears $-NR^sR^t$, reductively alkylating $H-NR^sR^t$ using a corresponding compound but in which the carbon to bear the $-NR^sR^t$ group bears an oxo group;

(S) for a compound of formula I in which $R^p$ is 1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl, adding a methyl group to the carbonyl group of a corresponding compound of formula I in which $R^p$ is acetyl using an organometallic reagent;

(T) for a compound of formula I in which $R^p$ is 1-methoxy-1-methylethyl, treating a corresponding compound of formula I in which $R^p$ is 1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl with methanol and an acid catalyst;

(U) for a compound of formula I in which $R^4$ or $R^5$ is amino, reducing the nitro group of a compound corresponding to a compound of formula I but in which $R^4$ or $R^5$ is nitro;

(V) for a compound of formula I in which $R^4$ or $R^5$ is $R^gNH$- and $R^g$ is $R^hSO_2$-, substituting the amino group of a corresponding compound of formula I in which $R^4$ or $R^5$ is amino using an activated derivative of the sulfonic acid $R^hSO_2$-OH;

whereafter, for any of the above procedures, when a functional group is protected using a protecting group, removing the protecting group;

whereafter, for any of the above procedures, when a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound of formula I is required, it is obtained by reacting the basic form of a basic compound of formula I with an acid affording a physiologically acceptable counterion or the acidic form of an acidic compound of formula I with a base affording a physiologically acceptable counterion or by any other conventional procedure;

and wherein, unless otherwise specified, $A^3$-$A^6$, $L^1$, $Q^1$ and $R^2$ have any of the values defined in Claim 1 or 2.

13. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting factor Xa in a mammal comprising administering to the ~~a~~ mammal in need thereof ~~of treatment~~, an effective amount of a compound of formula I as provided in any of Claims 1-3 1-10.

14-16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) The compound of Claim 5 wherein $R^2$ is (1-isopropylpiperidin-4-ylcarbonyl)amino, (1-cyclohexylpiperidin-4-ylcarbonyl)amino, (4-isopropylpiperazin-1-ylcarbonyl)amino, [1-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)piperidin-4-ylcarbonyl]amino, [4-(1-pyrrolidinyl)piperidin-1-ylcarbonyl]amino, [1-(4-pyridinyl)piperidin-4-ylmethyl]amino, [1-(2-carboxypyridin-4-yl)piperidin-

4-ylmethyl]amino, or [1-(2-methoxycarbonylpyridin-4-yl)-piperidin-4-ylmethyl]amino.

18. (New) The compound as claimed in Claim 5 wherein each of $R^3$-$R^6$ is hydrogen.

19. (New) The compound as claimed in Claim 6 wherein each of $R^3$-$R^6$ is hydrogen.

20. (New) The compound as claimed in Claim 17 wherein each of $R^3$-$R^6$ is hydrogen.

21. (New) The compound as claimed in Claim 5 wherein each of $R^3$, $R^4$ and $R^6$ is hydrogen and $R^5$ is chloro or fluoro.

22. (New) The compound as claimed in Claim 6 wherein each of $R^3$, $R^4$ and $R^6$ is hydrogen and $R^5$ is chloro or fluoro.

23. (New) The compound as claimed in Claim 17 wherein each of $R^3$, $R^4$ and $R^6$ is hydrogen and $R^5$ is chloro or fluoro.

24. (New) The compound of Claim 9 wherein $Q^1$ is 6-chloropyridazin-3-yl.

25. (New) The compound of Claim 9 wherein $R^2$ is (1-isopropylpiperidin-4-ylcarbonyl)amino, (1-cyclohexylpiperidin-4-ylcarbonyl)amino, (4-isopropylpiperazin-1-ylcarbonyl)amino, [1-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)piperidin-4-ylcarbonyl]amino, [4-(1-pyrrolidinyl)piperidin-1-ylcarbonyl]amino, [1-(4-pyridinyl)piperidin-4-ylmethyl]amino, [1-(2-carboxypyridin-4-yl)piperidin-

4-ylmethyl]amino, or [1-(2-methoxycarbonylpyridin-4-yl)-piperidin-4-ylmethyl]amino.

26. (New) The compound of Claim 24 wherein $R^2$ is (1-isopropylpiperidin-4-ylcarbonyl)amino, (1-cyclohexylpiperidin-4-ylcarbonyl)amino, (4-isopropylpiperazin-1-ylcarbonyl)amino, [1-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)piperidin-4-ylcarbonyl]amino, [4-(1-pyrrolidinyl)piperidin-1-ylcarbonyl]amino, [1-(4-pyridinyl)piperidin-4-ylmethyl]amino, [1-(2-carboxypyridin-4-yl)piperidin-4-ylmethyl]amino, or [1-(2-methoxycarbonylpyridin-4-yl)-piperidin-4-ylmethyl]amino.

27. (New) The compound selected from

N-(6-chloropyridazin-3-yl)-2-[[1-(4-pyridinyl)-piperidin-4-ylcarbonyl]amino]benzamide and

5-chloro-N-(6-chloropyridazin-3-yl)-2-[(1-isopropyl-piperidin-4-ylcarbonyl)amino]benzamide, or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.